

Deliberative Process

Interview Summary

Person(s) Interviewed: Matt Fritz, EPA Chief of Staff

Interviewers: Mary Kay Lynch, Scott Gordon (by phone)

Date: November 20, 2015

Time: 2:00 pm-3:00 pm

Matt Fritz was interviewed on November 20, 2015, as part of an internal EPA After-Action review of the Agency's response to the release at Gold King Mine in Colorado on August 5, 2015. Matt serves as the Chief of Staff of EPA.

Synopsis of Interview

General Observations and Recommendations:

First learned about the release on the afternoon of August 6, provided a print email of the notice from Sean McGrath. The email states that "...a mine drainage spill that our staff, working with CO state staff, caused". AP called us this morning, and some of the downstream towns/cities (Durango) are not pleased with the response". With that he sent notification to the Administrator and the White House.

The scale of the release or its potential to impact other states and regions was not contained in that notification. Senior management in Region 8 did not seem to have information.

Matt initiated a call with Region 8 that afternoon based on EPA's involvement in the initial release.

(b) (5) DPP [REDACTED]

The next day (Friday) on a call with Stan HQ was beginning to realize the scope of the spill and the impact on other states and tribes.

Thought Headquarters had a steady flow information by Saturday p.m. after the spill- that was wrong. By Sunday morning raw data was provided without context. Also issued press release saying it was a 1 million gallon release. By Sunday had to correct to 3 million.

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Lessons Learned:

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